

THE BREAKDOWN

A Newsletter from the Department of Africana Studies

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SOCIAL MEDIA

[AFRS on Instagram](#)

[AFRS on Facebook](#)

[AFRS on Twitter](#)

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. White, Chair of the AFRS Department, shares a few words.



Welcome to the January 2020 edition of the Africana Studies newsletter. Here’s to a new year, a new season and a new decade filled with endless opportunities and possibilities for health, wellness and success! In this version, you’ll find a recap of our successful 50th Anniversary celebration, and The Digital Realm: Project Media Showcase, which allows students an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity and media literacy skills that were mastered in the Approaches to University Writing, AFRS 115 class. We also introduce you to one of our newest Writing Center tutors, and how one of our most committed Africana Studies alumna and James Bracy scholarship recipient is prospering since her graduation in 2019. One of our signature Africana Studies student success programs, the Bi-Annual Men of Color Enquiry Poster Session is highlighted, where student research on issues that Black men encounter is presented. We hope you enjoy reading about the activities of the Black House, the Black Buzz, and tips on Africana Studies job opportunities. Wishing you all the best for a prosperous, rewarding spring semester.

AFRS Students [Tell Us About Your Accomplishments](#)



AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT NEWS

Guess What?! WE'RE FINALLY 50!

This past November, during Africana Studies Week, the department held their two-day, 50th Anniversary celebration to honor their rise as a department.

50 years ago, the department had their first triumph after opening new doors for Black students to enter the university and learn about the Africana community. Fast forward to present day, the Africana Studies Department has served thousands of students, while successfully thriving in creating an inclusive and safe place for virtually everyone to learn about the African diaspora, regardless of their race, ethnic background, culture, gender, or orientation.

The two-day celebration started on Friday, November 1st, 2019 at the Grand Salon with a panel discussion with former chairs and elders associated with the department, and continued Monday, November 4th, 2019 at The Black House, where students, alumni, and faculty met to hear Africana Studies Alumni Darius Riggins speak. Everyone listened attentively, rejoicing at the stories the alumnus shared, as he described the vibrancy and involvement of the Black Student Union (BSU) during his time as a scholar, the creation of the Black House, and the overall involvement of the Black student community on campus.

As the celebration went on, there was a live drum performance, soul food was served, and the room filled with laughter and chatter from everyone who attended. It was an exciting sight to see everyone from different walks of life share this victorious commemoration.

As a reminder, the Africana Studies Department offers three majors and a minor for those who are interested in learning more about the African diaspora. There is always room in our growing community, and everyone is welcome with a guaranteed chance of student success while working with the major(s)/minor(s) program.

PROFESSOR OF THE MONTH

IN RECOGNITION OF PROFESSOR MONICA TURNER

Join us in congratulating Professor Monica Turner for receiving the 2019 Don Dorsey Excellence in Mentoring Award. The award acknowledges those professors who go above and beyond to empower students to succeed personally, academically, and professionally. Turner is humbled by the recognition, and states, "it is not about me." Rather, her focus is on tailoring different methods of instruction to fit the needs of her students to help them succeed.



WHO IS PROFESSOR TURNER?

Professor Monica Turner began her journey at CSUN as a non-traditional student in 1992. She graduated in 1994 with a degree in Communication Studies (formerly known as Speech Communication). Following graduation, Turner was recruited into the Master's Program in Speech Communication, where she was also offered a position as a Teaching Associate. Turner graduated in 1998 with an MA in Speech Communication. She continued teaching for the Communication Studies Department in addition to the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and what was then known as the Pan African Studies Department.

Professor Turner credits her academic success and dedicates her work to the invaluable assistance she received from faculty, staff, and administrators. She dedicates her work to those who made a difference in her life including, Dr. Christie Logan (faculty, Communication Studies), Dr. Elizabeth Berry (faculty, Communication Studies), Dr. Rosentene Bennett-Purnell, (faculty, Pan African Studies) Professor Verne Bryant, (faculty, Pan African Studies), Jose Luis Vargas, (Director, Educational Opportunity Program), Margaret Brown, EOP Advisor, and Dr. Mack Johnson, (Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies). After twenty-seven years of being a member of the CSUN community, Turner reveals that she is still learning how to help students tap into their unlimited potential to become fully and completely human. By doing so, she feels it increases their chances

of being able to navigate the complexities of life.

In this context, students have taught Turner how to adapt year-after-year to a diverse and ever-changing CSUN population. Ultimately, for Turner, the measurement for her effectiveness depends on how well students begin to know and understand themselves so they can consciously develop the character and competence that will enable them to successfully transition into

life after college. Turner states, "I stumbled into teaching serendipitously since it was not my original career path. Through the years, I have developed a fondness for CSUN students in particular as one of them which ignited my passion for the classroom experience that still burns bright to this day. I don't know if any other profession could have been as personally fulfilling and intellectually rewarding. I am eternally grateful it chose me."

THE DIGITAL REALM

PROJECT MEDIA SHOWCASE



On December 5th, the Africana Studies (AFRS 115): Approaches to University Writing class, held their annual "Project Media Showcase" at the Bianchi Planetarium. The showcase allowed students in the AFRS 115 class to research an issue that they felt was not only important but happening in the surrounding community. Once the student (s) felt they were educated in the topic they chose, they presented their research to their peers and professors through multimedia platforms.

Dr. Kennon, a tenured professor, orchestrated the event, as she and her colleagues, Professor Robinson, Professor Broadous, and Dr. Lo, believe that this is an ideal mechanism to enhance their students learning experience.

For the project, students were encouraged to use their media literacy skills to plan their topic, conduct their research, organize their presentation, use an outline for their data, create

graphics or images to present to students and faculty, and incorporate their sources and references to execute their demonstration. Similar to an essay's structure, the project enhances their learning and writing abilities.

Dr. Lo, another tenured professor who participated in the event, encouraged her students to create their own version of Wakanda, relating to the peaceful country in the movie *The Black Panther*. She wanted her students to incorporate structures in education, healthcare, and society to build their own harmonious world.



Dr. Lo said, "I love this event and assignment very much! We luckily do it every semester and we get to see the student's creative genius." She adds, "They share a lot of insight and their own stories. I can see where they come from and see the spirit of the student. It's almost like a beautiful celebration of their minds." She notes that her students are strong storytellers, and she is very proud of their outcomes. She looks forward to working with her colleagues again for another successful turnout and would like to give Dr. Kennon all the credit for the success of the event.

Similarly, Dr. Kennon was very proud of her 115 class. The student's digital interaction allowed for their extensive research to be presented creatively. The "digital realm" as she calls it, is a creative platform that is familiar to her students, which makes them comfortable when approaching this project. She states, "They use their digital knowledge to create their projects to teach one another from their experiences, which is exciting because it not only prepares them for future academics but allows them to be open to any collaborative effort. It gives me hope too; knowing they've become comfortable having this body of knowledge."

MEET OUR TUTORS

AFRICANA STUDIES WRITING LAB TUTOR: TONYA MCCLENDON

Tonya is the newest member to the Africana Studies Writing Center. After transferring from West LA College, she met friends here, at the Africana Studies Department Writing Center, that demonstrated her shared values in student success. With her previous tutoring experience, McClendon applied for the tutoring position, and her new journey began with the department. Prior to attending CSUN, McClendon tutored for the Los Angeles Community College District, assisting high schoolers. Along the way, her writing and grammar skills have strengthened to not only assist her in her assignments, but to help her peers as well.

Since she began working in the Africana Studies Department, there have been many perks to the job. The Writing Lab has allowed her to prioritize her academics, which allows her to work on her assignments or study during her down time. She says, her "student mode" never shuts off and she is grateful.

Her exceptional tutoring skills have been recognized throughout a few programs around campus such that her colleagues have been impressed by her work, and they now seek help from McClendon when they can. This position has made her appreciate the department more and she encourages students to find jobs on campus, especially those who are majors or minors in Africana Studies, to promote success for themselves, and to also become a part of the department's active student community.

She says, "I love the Africana Studies Department. I am very excited to be a part of a department that not only supports their students, but also a department that allows their students to help one another succeed."



JAMES BRACY SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENTS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Imani Fulwilder: Recent Africana Studies Alumni. Graduated in Spring 2019 with a major in Africana Studies (Social Sciences)



IN IMANI'S OWN WORDS

I am a recent graduate of California State University, Northridge (CSUN). The Dr. James Bracy scholarship allowed me to keep a balance in my life, maintaining good grades, while taking part in school activities that contributed to my personal and professional development. I have accepted a position as an Assistant Residential Coordinator at San Francisco State University (SFSU) and am applying for a Master's program at both University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and SFSU in Public Health: Community Education. I plan to focus my research on Holistic Healing and preventative medicine. "My goal is to become a Naturopathic Healer, and spread knowledge throughout the world, healing one person at a time."



THE BLACK BUZZ

The Department of Africana Studies is bringing you news to stay up to date on events happening in the community around you.

PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL (PAFF)

Cinemark Rave Cinemas Baldwin Hills Theater
Los Angeles, CA February 11, 2020 - February 23, 2020 Dr. Karin Stanford, an Africana Studies professor, and her colleague, Dr. Keith Rice, a historian at the Tom and Ethel Bradley Center at California State University, Northridge, along with his student assistant, Pilar de Haro, were selected to screen a film at the Pan African Film Festival (PAFF) titled *Displacement in Utopia*, which focuses on the history of housing discrimination experienced by African Americans in Los Angeles.



SELMA: JOHN KOUNS PHOTO EXHIBIT

Where: Tom and Ethel Bradley Center

When: Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.



The evening will feature the Opening of the Tom & Ethel Bradley Center Photographic Exhibition, "From Selma to Montgomery": The Voting Registration Campaigns of 1963 to 1965 (Curated by Keith Rice, and Africana Studies Professor, Dr. Karin Stanford), 5:30pm to 7:00pm, with guest speaker, actress and human rights activist, Donzaleigh Abernathy. Tickets are FREE for students. Faculty and staff tickets are 50% off



STEP AFRIKA! AT THE SORAYA

CSUN Soraya Performing Arts Center, February 23, 2020 Step Afrika! Drumfolk from Washington, D.C., this African American dance company blends their percussive dance with storytelling and music. Drumfolk is a celebration of human will and perseverance. For more information [visit the Soraya website.](#)

GET HELP STUYING!

Easy studying tips to help ace your tests.

1. **Rest up:** Sleep 8 hours a night to remain energized.
2. **Organize your study space:** Ensure you have an organized space to start fresh. Too many items may crowd your space.
3. **Schedule you study time and stick to it:** Plan ahead: Do not cram the night before or avoid you study time.
4. **Silence your phone:** An active phone is a distracting one. Silence it, or simply turn on airplane mode until your first study break.
5. **Create a Study Guide:** Create study guides before your exams to know exactly what to study.
6. **Go at your own pace:** Studying is never a fast process, so do not rush. Take thinks nice and slow.
7. **Study in different settings:** Allow your brain to have a variety of scenery to relax.
8. **Quiz yourself:** The best way to ensure you understand something is by quizzing yourself.
9. **Create study groups:** If effective, have your peers assist you with studying. If they ae a distraction you are not obligated.
10. **Take a break:** Periodically schedule small breaks to hydrate, eat and recollect your thoughts.

SPRING 2019 EVENTS



DEAR BLACK MEN: THE BI-ANNUAL MEN OF COLOR ENQUIRY TAKES THE STAGE ONCE AGAIN!

The Men of Color Enquiry started back in 2013 when Dr. Cedric Hackett, a tenured professor for the Department of Africana Studies, worked on deepening his students understanding in his course. The course, AFRS 325: The Black Male in Contemporary Times, teaches students that there are a variety of difficulties that men of color are facing, in terms of gender roles in society and their portrayal in society.

To help strengthen their knowledge, Dr. Hackett's students are encouraged to begin researching topics on issues that Black men encounter, then they create a hypothesis about why they believe these

predestined issues exist and develop a conclusion on their findings. The issues may pertain to race, culture, stereotypes, labeling, family, or music. From there, they develop annotated bibliographies, literary reviews, and reports to explain its overall relevance. Once his students become experts in their topics, they develop presentation boards explaining their data, they dress for success and showcase themselves and the information at the Bi-Annual Men of Color Enquiry event. The attendee's ranged from friends, family, professors, colleagues, students, and was opened to the public.

On November 22, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dr. Hackett and his scholars presented their information at the University Student Union in the Grand Salon. The turnout was successful and they hosted Stephen A. Small, PhD., an expert in Sociology, who teaches at UC Berkeley about the African diaspora in Europe and the United States.

Dr. Hackett calls it, "Successful!" He said, "It's the 14th one I have hosted, but the programs serve the students well. It paints a big picture for them and shows them how to develop research skills, how to relate to the real world, how to be a healthy member of society, how to gain confidence, not just self-efficacy, but true confidence in their knowledge. Also, it's fun!"

Overall, Dr. Hackett works hard to teach his students, allow for his students to contribute their research ideas to the school, research their ideas and provide a platform for student engagement.

THE BLACK HOUSE

WHO WE ARE

The Black House is the cultural home and meeting place for virtually every Black student and Black student organization on campus, but everyone is welcome.

COORDINATORS

Zakiyyah Babatunde-Bey and Kyle Wallace
Jordan

WHERE

18348 Halstead Street (at the North side of campus)

WHEN

Monday through Thursday
11am-6pm

WHAT WE DO

The Black House dedicates a lot of their time to assist students, by providing services, hosting educational events, and providing a platform where students can engage, study and network.

Here are a few of the events hosted by The Black House to benefit students in 2019:

Secure the Bag

Students were invited to the Black House to learn more about saving, budgeting, and finance from Associate Vice President Deborah Wallace, followed by a panel of student entrepreneurs.

Tech Workshop

This event taught students about graphic design, how to create their own business cards, and gave them valuable information they can take into their professional careers.

Fresh Cut Thursday

As part of Men's Health Week, the Black House invited students to come receive \$5 haircuts from professional barbers to encourage self-care and confidence among the Black men on campus.

A BITTERSWEET GOODBYE

Ashlee' McHenry



We would like to wish Ashlee' McHenry the best on her new endeavors. We are congratulating Ashlee' McHenry as she transitions from being Senior Black House Coordinator to focusing on her master's degree full time. She has served the department for over a year and has built interpersonal relationships with staff, faculty, and professors in the Africana Studies Department. She leaves behind a trail of memories and wishes everyone the best of luck while continuing her journey at CSUN. She is a second- year graduate student at CSUN, working towards her master's degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. This program allows students to aim towards higher education and administration. As of now, she is attempting to publish her research titled, "Black Deaf Students in Higher Education," where it focuses on the low number of Black deaf students and their enrollment numbers at CSUN. McHenry worked the front desk for the department before deciding she wanted to join the Black

House in July. She was heavily interested in programming, orchestrating events, creating flyer's, scheduling, and enjoyed the student engagement that followed. In her opinion, working at the Black House provided a "one on one" interaction that granted access to more student engagement.

During her time at the Black House, she describes every event as a great one. They were fun to set up and wait for the student body to come together. However, out of all the events, her favorite one was the "Talent Showcase," where many people came to the house and broke out from their shells. This Black student collaboration was fun, it provided students a platform to market, network and engage with one another. She is grateful for everything she has learned, from the connections she developed, to Dr. White pushing her to awaken her innate abilities and skills. McHenry says, "This feeling is bittersweet, but I need more time to research, to publish, to become a Certified American Sign Language Interpreter, and need time to

accomplish the goals I set for myself in my program." The department is proud of Ashlee' McHenry and she will be missed. For more information on Ashlee's publications, you may find "Her Name is Flow," a self-authored book, sold on Amazon.

NEED A JOB?

Apply on the [CSUN Student Employment website](#) for an opportunity to join the Department of Africana Studies on their journey to success

WEB DESIGNER

We are looking for a Web Designer to create a high quality and visually appealing digital version of the CAPTURED Multimedia Student Research Journal. The CAPTURED Web Designer will be conceptualizing and implementing creative ideas and creating visual elements.

BLACK HOUSE COORDINATOR ASSISTANT

We are looking for an assistant coordinator to help create promotional material, assist with outreach, publicity, social media platforms, and assist with research on a national and regional issues related to student cultural centers. Inclusively, we require the candidate to be able to enforce Black House policies and procedures, as well as assisting in the supervision and training of BH interns and student assistants. Must be able to assist in creating events for the Black House.

SENIOR BLACK HOUSE COORDINATOR

We are looking for a Senior Black House Coordinator to assist in coordinating our Black House, develop and coordinate event programming and production schedules, create promotional materials, manage outreach, publicity and social media platforms and much more.

WRITING CENTER TUTOR

Students will provide services to students enrolled in the one-unit tutorial AFRS 099 Writers Workshop. they will assist walk-in students, usually referred by instructors to seek immediate assistance with a writing/ reading assignment. Inclusively, they will schedule student appointments to work on specific areas of writing and reading as well as other miscellaneous projects in the library as needed.